is a lunatic and who * reigns * by courtesy of the French government* It is a pathetic court. The Pomare family, who furnished the last and least worthy kings and queens of Tahiti, had been made the stalking-horse of the European powers which successively protected the island. Wallis began it in 1767 for, with the incredible and innocent insolence of his time, he had no sooner landed on an island which for a thousand years had belonged to a highly developed and civilised people than he took possession of it in the name of King George and henceforth regarded any attack on his ship or crew as ' treachery' or ' rebellion * on the part of the 'savages/ Nevertheless, backed by the missionaries who had landed in his particular district, the local chief, called Pomare I, was encouraged to claim overlordship of the whole island and supported by the muskets and cannon of his new suzerain, the English King, in his at-tempt. Of the whole story and heroic

stand of the nationalists, leading to the death of the hero Opuhara, I shall not here write, but when at length Europe did another shuffle and handed Tahiti over to the French, the new master went